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CLAIM AMENDMENT

What is claimed is:

Claims 1 to 47, (canceled)

48. (new) A reinforcing bar coupler for coupling an overlapped first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), which are formed a plurality of semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11), the reinforcing bar coupler comprising:

a base sleeve (2, 2b) having an outer surface formed with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surfaces and two rounded corners between said bottom and lateral surfaces,

said outer surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming multiple of semi-annular ribs (22) and longitudinal ribs (21), which are same pattern of the semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),

an inner surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming dual half-cylindrical cavities with top opening (23) for mounting the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) laid in parallel,

said dual half-cylindrical cavities closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding, and formed a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),

said semi-annular grooves (26) formed same interval of the semi-annular ribs (12) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),

a pair of locking parts (27) along with both edges of lateral walls (25), said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) integrally formed a right-triangle shaped edge with inwardly slanted surfaces (29),

a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an upside down shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower

surface and a plurality of semi-annular grooves (32) with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) and a flat top surface (33) at opposite upper surface, wherein the upside down shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface are directly contacted the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other, and

a wedge (4, 4b) having gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction, and a pair of locking sections (45) along with both edges (46) for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) as axially slide advancing into said base sleeve (2, 2b), wherein said locking section (45) of the wedge (4, 4b) are integrally formed a right-triangle shape groove with outwardly slanted surfaces (46), both slanted surfaces (29, 46) have same slopes for smoothly mating each other and press-bonding the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),

49. (new) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 48, wherein said base sleeve (2, 2b) has an overall length, which is a half interval of the semi-annular ribs shorter than that of said cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (33a) formed at one end portion of the flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), said wedge (4, 4b) forming a flat bottom surface (43) for contacting with said flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (43a) formed at one end portion of the flat bottom surface (43) of said wedge (4, 4b), more than one groove (44) formed on said flat bottom surface (43) along with the axial direction.

50. (new) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 48, wherein said semi-annular grooves (26), and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) and the cover sleeve (3, 3b) have interval, which is a half that of the semi-annular ribs (12) of the reinforcing bars (1, 1a).

51. (new) The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 48, wherein the base sleeve (2b) and the wedge (4b) have a uniform thickness, said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2b) are bent to have a clearance slightly less than a thickness of said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4b) for tightly press-fitting to the clearance, said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4b) formed laterally bent-up and gradually decreased its height along with the axial direction, and a striking head (42) formed at the higher end.